

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

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|--|---|--|--|
| 1. DATE 12 Apr 58 | 2. LOCATION Bakersville, North Carolina | 12. CONCLUSIONS | |
| 3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 13/0120Z | 4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar | <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft | |
| 5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | 6. SOURCE Civilian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical Meteor <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | |
| 7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION not rptd | 8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one | 9. COURSE South | |
| 10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Obj looked like shooting star observed Rptd as possible decay of Sputnik II. Followed curve toward Earth in fall. Red glow in color. | | 11. COMMENTS Sputnik decayed on 14 Apr. Observation has characteristics of a meteor sighting & the case is evaluated as a meteor sighting. | |

Drop
mail
Bakersville, N.C.

Route #1 Box [redacted]

April 15, 1958

Mr. McElroy
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I do not know if I saw the sputnik falling. I do not know its speed for the part of the County. I am sending the information that I did see. I was one mile south of Bakersville facing east. The time was about 8:30 P.M. Saturday April 12, 1958. There was something in the sky traveling from west to south. It looked like a shooting star. It was a very clear night. The object did not follow a straight line but more like that of one leg of a pencil. The sharpest part of the curve turning into the earth. It seemed to slow down at the end. It was a kind of red glow in color. I thought that if this data corresponds to the exact time and location that the Defense department might like to try to find it. I still am sure you where it fell north and south but don't know how far west it was at that time. *Very truly yours*
[redacted] [redacted]

DD-950/10
Ser 1500000

From: Director of Naval Intelligence
To: Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, U.S. Air Force
Subj: Correspondence relating to "Sputnik"; forwarded as
Enccls: (1) DDCI from R. [redacted] 9 May 1958 with CHINFO answer
thereof of 6 June 1958
② (2) DDCI from R. A. Bowlden of 15 Apr 1958 with CHINFO answer thereto
of 6 June 1958

1. Enclosures (1) and (2) are forwarded herewith for information.



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 14, 1958

15 MAY 1958

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF OF INFORMATION, DEPT. OF THE NAVY

SUBJECT: Referral of Correspondence

The inclosed correspondence is forwarded for consideration and appropriate action to include direct reply to the writer who has not been notified of this referral. Information copy of your reply is not requested.

Incl: Ltr dtd 15 April 1958

[REDACTED]
Bakersville, N. C.

Personal Services Branch
Office of Public Services
Room 2D 776, The Pentagon
LIBerty 5-6700, Ext. 76462

D 34873



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

CI-340:EGS:blm

1958

Mr. [REDACTED]

Box [REDACTED]
Bakersville, North Carolina

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

The Secretary of Defense has requested me to thank you for your recent letter to him concerning your observations of a moving object in the sky believed to be Sputnik II.

Your thoughtfulness in forwarding this information is greatly appreciated by the Department of Defense.

I am forwarding your letter to the Office of Naval Intelligence for evaluation and possible use.

Your continued interest in the Government is solicited.

Sincerely yours,

Copy to:
ONI

Ernest O. SALTMAN
Commander, U. S. Navy
Acting Head,
Public Inquiries Branch